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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/695,636	10/24/2000	Yuichiro Deguchi	203794US6	2784

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ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

EXAMINER

HWANG, JOON H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2003

10

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

14

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/695,636

Applicant(s)

DEGUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Joon H. Hwang

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. The applicants elected the Group I, claims 1-42, without traverse in response to the restriction requirement received on 7/18/03.

Thus, the pending claims are 1-42.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 12-19, 22-26, 28-32, and 35-42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,884).

With respect to claim 1, Tomita discloses a searching system for searching contents that were broadcasted (lines 44-52 in col. 2, lines 19-25 in col. 11, and fig. 13). Tomita discloses an inputting unit comprising first storing means for storing information representing at least time at which contents were broadcasted corresponding to a predetermined operation (lines 27-29 and 44-52 in col. 2, lines 8-16 in col. 4, lines 14-26 in col. 5, lines 36-40 in col. 7, and lines 26-29 in col. 11) and first communicating means for transmitting the information representing time stored in the storing means to an external unit (lines 15-27 in col. 2, lines 8-16 and 55-61 in col. 4, lines 14-26 in col. 5, and lines 46-50 in col. 7). Tomita discloses a searching unit comprising second storing means for correlatively storing information representing contents and broadcast time

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thereof (lines 29-43 in col. 2, lines 8-16 in col. 4, lines 31-42 in col. 5, lines 24-29 in col. 8, and lines 30-35 in col. 11) and searching means for searching information representing the contents stored in the second storing means corresponding to the information representing time (lines 44-52 in col. 2, lines 27-33 and 48-54 in col. 4, lines 31-42 in col. 5, line 60 in col. 7 thru line 14 in col. 8, and lines 19-25 in col. 11). Tomita discloses a terminal unit comprising second communicating means for receiving the information representing time transmitted from the inputting unit through the first communicating means (lines 15-27 in col. 2 and lines 31-42 in col. 5) and third communicating means for transmitting the information representing time received by the second communicating means and receiving search results transmitted from the searching unit (lines 44-52 in col. 2, lines 31-52 in col. 5, and lines 19-25 in col. 11). Tomita discloses first displaying means for displaying the information representing time received by the second communicating means and the search results by the searching unit (lines 22-43 and 53-60 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 4 thru line 4 in col. 5, lines 11-21 in col. 6, lines 52-57 in col. 10, and lines 36-41 in col. 11). Therefore, based on Tomita, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to request based on a time in order to display a listing of broadcast programs with respect to a user's desired and time.

With respect to claim 2, Tomita discloses the information representing the contents includes information about the contents (fig. 14).

With respect to claim 5, Tomita discloses the transmission of the information representing time from the inputting unit to the terminal unit is virtually displayed (lines

22-43 in col. 2, line 64 in col. 3 thru line 7 in col. 4, lines 5-13 in col. 5, and lines 54-64 in col. 6).

With respect to claim 6, Tomita discloses second displaying means for displaying entries of information representing time stored in the first storing means (fig. 1, fig. 9, lines 5-13 and 27-29 in col. 5, and lines 54-64 in col. 6). Tomita discloses when the information representing time is received by the second communicating means, the virtual display of the first displaying means of the terminal unit is correlated with the display of the entries of the information representing time displayed on the second displaying means of the inputting unit (lines 44-52 in col. 2, lines 8-16 in col. 4, and lines 43-52 in col. 5).

With respect to claim 7, Tomita discloses when the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on the second displaying means decreases, the number of entries of the information representing time displayed on the first displaying means increases (lines 8-16 and 35-54 in col. 4, lines 30-42 in col. 5, and lines 52-57 in col. 10).

With respect to claim 8, Tomita discloses the terminal unit is an information terminal unit that is installed as a public unit (fig. 2, fig. 3, and lines 29-35 in col. 6).

With respect to claim 9, Tomita discloses the terminal unit is composed of a personal computer (lines 29-35 in col. 6).

With respect to claim 10, Tomita teaches a musical piece content (fig. 9 and lines 42-48 in col. 14).

The limitations of claim 12 are rejected in the analysis of claim 10 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

With respect to claim 13, Tomita discloses interface means for allowing information representing the contents stored in the second storing means and/or broadcast time of the contents to be changed from an external unit that has been properly filtered (line 65 in col. 6 thru line 4 in col. 7, lines 24-43 in col. 8, and lines 34-43 in col. 9).

With respect to claim 14, Tomita discloses program storing means for storing a control program that controls the inputting unit and wherein the control program is transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by the first communicating means and the second communicating means and stored to the program storing means (lines 22-43 in col. 2, line 64 in col. 3 thru line 7 in col. 4, lines 11-20 in col. 6, line 60 in col. 7 thru line 14 in col. 8, and fig. 9).

With respect to claim 15, Tomita discloses the control program is transmitted from the searching unit to the terminal unit by the third communicating means and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit (lines 10-51 in col. 7, lines 22-43 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 5 thru line 5 in col. 6, and lines 30-43 in col. 8).

With respect to claim 16, Tomita discloses connecting means for connecting the terminal unit to a predetermined network and wherein the control program is transmitted to the terminal unit through the predetermined network connected to the terminal unit and then transmitted from the terminal unit to the inputting unit by the connecting means

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(lines 10-51 in col. 7, lines 22-43 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 5 thru line 5 in col. 6, lines 30-43 in col. 8, lines 29-40 in col. 6, fig. 2, and fig. 3).

With respect to claim 17, Tomita discloses reading means for reading data recorded on a predetermined record medium and wherein the control program is read from the record medium by the reading means and transmitted to the inputting unit (lines 10-51 in col. 7, lines 22-43 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 5 thru line 5 in col. 6, lines 30-43 in col. 8, lines 29-47 in col. 6, fig. 2, and fig. 3).

The limitations of claims 18, 32, and 35-42 are rejected in the analysis of claim 1 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 19 are rejected in the analysis of claim 2 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 22 are rejected in the analysis of claim 5 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 23 are rejected in the analysis of claim 6 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 24 are rejected in the analysis of claim 7 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 25 are rejected in the analysis of claim 8 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 26 are rejected in the analysis of claim 9 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 28 are rejected in the analysis of claim 14 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 29 are rejected in the analysis of claim 15 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 30 are rejected in the analysis of claim 16 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claim 31 are rejected in the analysis of claim 17 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

4. Claims 3, 11, 20, 27, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,884) in view of Yoshinobu et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,686,954).

With respect to claim 3, Tomita discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above except second contents are multiple of first contents. However, Yoshinobu discloses a searching capabilities and displaying first contents and second contents in a broadcast program and wherein the second contents are multiple of first contents (fig. 15, fig. 16, fig. 17, lines 9-16 and 59-62 in col. 5, lines 2-16 in col. 16, and lines 12-23 in col. 23) in order to show broadcasting times with respect to the searched contents. Therefore, based on Tomita in view of Yoshinobu, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a multiple of a searched content in order to show broadcasting times in a broadcasting program schedule with respect to the searched content.

With respect to claim 11, Tomita discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above. Tomita further discloses a predetermined operation is performed with the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by the searching means and displayed on the first displaying means (lines 22-43 and 53-60 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 4 thru line 4 in col. 5, lines 11-21 in col. 6, lines 36-40 in col. 7, lines 52-57 in col. 10, and lines 26-41 in col. 11). Tomita is silent on a reproducing a musical piece. However, Yoshinobu discloses a search capability and requesting audio data corresponding to a musical piece and reproducing the audio data by audio reproducing means (lines 1-16 in col. 4, lines 59-62 in col. 5, fig. 10, fig. 14, fig. 18, and fig. 19) for a playback. Therefore, based on Tomita in view of Pocock, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to reproduce a musical piece in a search result for the playback.

The limitations of claims 20 and 33 are rejected in the analysis of claim 3 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

The limitations of claims 27 and 34 are rejected in the analysis of claim 11 above, and these claims are rejected on that basis.

5. Claims 4 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,100,884) in view of Pocock (U.S. Patent No. 6,314,577).

With respect to claim 4, Tomita discloses the claimed subject matter as discussed above. Tomita further discloses a predetermined operation is performed with

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the terminal unit corresponding to the search results obtained by the searching means and displayed on the first displaying means (lines 22-43 and 53-60 in col. 2, line 62 in col. 4 thru line 4 in col. 5, lines 11-21 in col. 6, lines 36-40 in col. 7, lines 52-57 in col. 10, and lines 26-41 in col. 11). Tomita is silent on a search result that is purchasable. However, Pocock discloses a search capability and purchasing music via searching a broadcast program (abstract, lines 26-45 in col. 2, lines 40-51 in col. 14, and line 64 in col. 14 thru line 18 in col. 15) for a profit from a business marketing. Therefore, based on Tomita in view of Pocock, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the search result as purchasable in order to make a profit from the business marketing.

The limitations of claim 21 are rejected in the analysis of claim 4 above, and the claim is rejected on that basis.

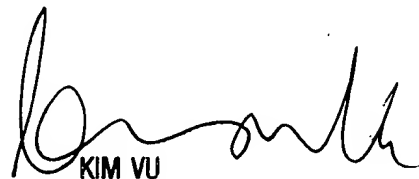
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joon H. Hwang whose telephone number is 703-305-6469. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00(M~F).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Joon Hwang
9/29/03



KIM VU
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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